

Manifesto



Capt. Kurt Buchholz

During my career as a Captain I visited the IOM a few times. The first time I came here was in 1996. In 2001 I got the opportunity to move from a career on board a ship into a land based position. Since then I have had a number of senior management positions in globally operating maritime companies. In 2006 my wife Amanda (nee Costain) and I got married here on the IOM and in 2010 our daughter Millie was born. For my family and for myself I want to get involved in the creation of a better future for the Isle of Man.

Many problems on the IOM are unresolved, many problems have been ignored and many problems have not even been looked at. Together with You, the people from this constituency, I would like to start making a change to our politics.

General Information

Politicians have one of the worst reputations of all professions. So why do I want to become a politician here on the Isle of Man?

I believe that a good education, life experience and management experience is important to be successful in any profession and in politics.

We have all heard promises from politicians before the elections which were often forgotten after the election.

We can read about the distressed economical situation in most countries and the IOM is no exception. However politicians on the Isle of Man want to tell us the story of a striving economy when we can see that the reality is very different. We see damaged roads when we drive, we can see empty shops, run down city centres, we read about businesses closing down and we read about companies leaving the Isle of Man. We also hear from the government that their funds are running out in a few years time. All these facts are hardly a success story and **we are clearly off course.**

In the coming years we need competent and qualified politicians who have an interest in creating a strong economy resulting in good and affordable living conditions.

*** Let us get back on course ***

Let's get back on course means a lot of hard work for politicians in the government. I am willing to work hard for a better future of our island.

Let me share an iconic quote of a president who inspired me and a generation in his time. **US President John F. Kennedy's** Inaugural Address, January 20. 1961:

“Ask not what your country can do for you-- Ask what you can do for your country!”

Infrastructure and Economy

The economy needs a good infrastructure. The Economy needs good access to the market, it needs a suitable legal and fiscal environment and finally it needs a business friendly political environment. Good infrastructure includes roads, electric energy, gas, ports, airport, waste, sewage, communication, internet, flights and ferry service. The access to the Isle of Man is of the utmost importance for the nation.

The connections by air and sea to the IOM need to be reliable, affordable and in the interest of the Isle of Man.

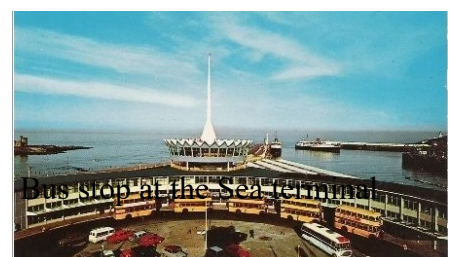
We benefit from the main air routes to the UK and Ireland, provided by a number of carriers who work in healthy competition with each other.

The main maritime cargo supply and passenger transport goes to and from the UK. As a small island nation we need to make sure that there is a regular, reliable, suitable and affordable ferry service. There is a contractual and intentional absence of competition, guaranteed by the government through the present User Agreement. In a few years we need a new User agreement for a ferry service which has to go through an open and transparent tender process. A regular daily RoRo service linking the IOM to Ireland should be considered and put out for tender.

The new User Agreements need to go through an open tender process.

The departments of Economy and Infrastructure should be merged.

To make the government less bureaucratic, leaner and more efficient the two Departments Economy and Infrastructure should be merged so that they can combine their synergies and reduce overall costs.



Government

It would appear that government departments need an urgent review. Ministers have spoken about government inefficiencies recently. The government and all its departments have to be streamlined to become more efficient.

Inefficiencies in all government departments need to be identified and rectified!

The management structure and manpower needs to be reviewed. Reducing staff is not always the right solution but is often used to cut costs. A sensible approach is absolutely paramount which should include the top management as well.

We must have expertise in government departments!

The frequent use of expensive external consultants is a clear indication that the politicians doubt the competence and expertise of their own departments. Highly paid individuals in departments need to have the required expertise. Qualified local candidates should be considered for management positions first before people from Scotland, New Zealand, or Canada are considered.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) needs to be politically independent

The Department should not be controlled by the council of ministers. For example, the OFT is responsible for investigations against the abuse of monopolies, cartels with price fixing and energy prices. Findings of the OFT, for example a comparison of the ferry costs, have been withheld in the past by order the council of ministers.

Judiciary of the Isle of Man

Judges of the High Court on the IOM should be appointed locally.



Health service

Providing a good health service.

The health service needs to be of a good standard. The workers in the health system need to be adequately paid and working standards need to be in line with the UK. This will ensure that we have sufficient and well trained medical personnel. Recent cost cuttings by the government has resulted in the loss of staff and further deterioration of the quality of our health service. Suitable working conditions and pay are not an option but a must!



Education

I strongly believe that the basis for a successful working life and career is a good education. The importance of a high quality education cannot be underestimated. Learning by doing is not an education. We need good and well equipped schools with good teachers on good pay.

The government needs to support higher education

To achieve a college or university degree is hard work. The successful students will find a good place in business and hopefully on the IOM one day. We need such ambitious people and we need to support them.

Social security and Benefits

Our government has the responsibility to provide a certain level of social security. Everybody pays into the social security system and therefore has the right to receive something in return when needed. On the other hand **we owe the taxpayers to fight against any abuse of the social benefit system.**

We should provide the following for the older generation and First Time Buyers: -

Free bus tickets and TV license for the over 65's !

Support the older people suffering from energy poverty! (fuel poverty)

No tax on pensions and retirement annuity plans!

A new first time buyer's program!

Energy

Energy prices have soared continuously during the last decades. To a great extent the IOM is dependent on electricity and gas supplies from the UK and Ireland. All our gas and fossil based fuel is imported.

The IOM is surrounded by unlimited natural energy resources. We have a regular tide difference of up to 6 metres. Every 12 hours, billions of tonnes of water is **pumped upwards** 6 metres and pressed into the Irish sea by the tidal effect of the moon. We have strong tidal currents in the sea and we have strong winds. This clean and natural energy needs only to be harvested. The proven and affordable technology exists with wind farms, hydro-electric systems and turbines powered by the tidal currents.

All the natural and renewable energy (tidal, current, wind, solar) is for free and it is clean!

The energy we are presently using is dirty energy. Oil is pumped out of the ground by large pumps. The oil is then transported by tankers polluting the atmosphere and often the environment. Oil spills are common and lead to ecological disasters. The oil we are burning with our vehicles and heating systems pollutes the atmosphere again. The latest system to get the oil out of the ground by fracking is not only polluting the ground water but also causes earth quakes. Gas is pumped out of the ground in the UK right outside our waters on big gas platforms and when we burn it we pollute the atmosphere again. Huge wind farms with hundreds of turbines are built in UK waters and are clearly visible from the IOM. The number of commercial wind turbines on the IOM is **Zero!**

Let us use our free and clean natural energy resources !

Our free energy resources will still be here when the oil and gas runs out. Let's start using them.



Environment

The Isle of Man has one of the most beautiful environments you can find. In my profession as a seafarer and ship's captain, I have sailed across nearly all oceans of the world. I have seen beautiful places but only a few places compare with the IOM nature. The island is surrounded by the sea and we have clean air due to our location and we have fresh sea breezes that carry away any smog particles. We have clean rivers and healthy Glens but the entire environment still needs to be looked after and preserved. We need to make sure that our beaches and the seas will still be clean in future.

We need to control and protect fishing areas, queenies scallop grounds and lobster areas in our territorial waters. We also need to look at the fact that most of the fishing boats fishing in our waters are not Manx.

Swimming in our waters must be safe and should cause no harm. We should ensure that we have the same high seawater quality standard as the rest of Europe.

Pumping sewage into the sea needs to stop. Dumping garbage illegally needs to stop. Littering the streets with cigarette butts, dog waste, chewing gum and in any other way needs to stop. Anybody who had the opportunity to travel to Singapore would have seen one of the cleanest cities due to a very strict environmental policy with heavy fines and strict controls against littering. We all live in the Isle of Man, we all have the right to enjoy unpolluted nature and have to make sure that we pass pristine conditions to our future generations.

Protect the environment, stop pollution and littering.

Make the cities and villages on Isle of Man greener

Well maintained park areas with trees and plants will create green breathing zones for our people. At the same time it will increase the quality of the city life and it will be very attractive for tourists.



These are my Targets

- **Stimulate growth for the economy, attracting new business**
- **Creating a business-friendly environment**
- **Reviewing staff levels in government, merging government departments**
- **Guarantee a Quality Health System in the Isle of Man**
- **A high Standard of Education, supporting students**
- **A fair Rates system based on consumption**
- **Starting an open and transparent tender process for the ferry service**
- **Review traffic routing in Douglas centre and the promenade**
- **Strengthening the Police force**
- **Re-introducing border control in ports and airports**
- **Fighting against Corruption and Monopolies**
- **Free parking for a limited time at Douglas promenade to support shops**
- **No fees for resident parking areas**

Personal Information

Family Buchholz: Amanda, daughter Millie and Kurt

Born 01. January 1954 in Germany

Hamburg University, Degree in Economics 1981

Hamburg Maritime Academy: Captain's license , 1981

Professional career in shipping, on board and ashore

Directors positions ashore since 1999 in senior management within globally operating maritime companies.

Owner and CEO of Sea Alliance (IOM) Ltd,

Married to Amanda (nee Costain) with our 5 year old daughter Millie.

Two grown up children: My son Curd was born 1988, He is working as a ships engineer and my daughter Estelle was born 1989; she is a full time mom.



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